

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus comprising:
  - an output device interfaced to a motherboard;
  - a fixed rendering device mounted to the motherboard for generating information to be output on said output device;
  - a connector for attaching a field-changeable rendering card to the motherboard, said field-changeable rendering card capable of housing a discrete rendering device for generating information to be output on said output device; and
  - detection circuitry for detecting that a field-changeable rendering card housing a discrete rendering device is coupled to said connector and causing information from said field-changeable rendering card housing a discrete rendering device to be output on said output device.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fixed rendering device is an integrated graphics processor and said discrete rendering device is a discrete graphics processing unit.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said graphics processing unit is adapted to receive a PCI express signal from said integrated graphics processor in order to generate a plurality of signals for display on said output device.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said graphics processing unit is adapted to generate low voltage differential signaling (LVDS), digital video interface (DVI), television (TV) and video graphics array (VGA) signals.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said field-changeable rendering card does not house a discrete rendering device and acts as a passive loop-through card.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the discrete rendering device is a transmission minimized differential signaling (TMDS) transmitter, and the field-changeable rendering card is a passive loop-through card.
7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said passive loop-through card completes circuit paths for signals output from said fixed rendering device to said output device.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said output device is a low voltage differential signaling (LVDS) display panel.
9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said output device is a digital video interface (DVI) display panel.
10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said field-changeable rendering card is an audio chip.